

Ascon Huntington Beach FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FEBRUARY 27, 2020



AIR MONITORING

QUESTION	ANSWER
Have air monitoring results ever identified a potential health concern related to cleanup activities?	No. According to a July 12, 2019, statement by Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC): “Ongoing air monitoring at the Site has not found any chemicals above levels that present a public health concern. The health protective monitoring levels are set to protect members of the community, including children and other vulnerable people.”
What is being monitored in the air on and offsite?	We are monitoring for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and dust while work is paused. Additionally, we will monitor for polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals and odor during active fieldwork.
Should I be concerned about dust readings over 50 µg/m3?	<p>The 50 µg/m3 (micrograms, or one-millionth of a gram, per cubic meter air) California Ambient Air Quality Standard is a 24-hour average. SCAQMD evaluates data based on a 24-hour average concentration for comparison to the ambient air quality standards. It is important to know if the reading is sustained over a 24-hour period.</p> <p>An isolated or short-term average of data—for example a one or two-hour average reading out of many during a 24-hour period—is not used to evaluate air quality. The average of total readings over a 24-hour period are compared with the regulatory standard (California Ambient Air Quality Standard) to evaluate air quality.</p>
What else can affect air monitoring data?	Regional and local issues can impact air monitoring data including, car exhaust, marine layer, wind, residential fireplace smoke, wildfires and industrial activities such as AES activity.
Readings for offsite community air monitoring show higher dust or particulate levels. What does this mean?	Active monitoring and data show that Ascon is not the source of the higher dust levels offsite. Offsite air monitoring readings may show higher dust levels because they are impacted directly by regional and neighborhood activities.



ODOR

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is the impact of odors on my health?	While some substances present at the Ascon Site generate odors in outdoor air, they are not at levels that can cause long-term health effects. Air data collected to date on the Site and in the surrounding neighborhood confirmed that, when odors have been identified, there have not been any chemicals detected by our monitoring at levels that present a risk to the community. Completing the final environmental cleanup of Ascon is important for the community, and we are working to reduce impacts to our neighbors.
What progress has been made on new protections against odors?	<p>We are implementing several enhancements at the Ascon Site to help control odors.</p> <p><u>They include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying reinforced polyethylene cover, soil sealants, including fibrous clay seal and non-toxic foam, extensive mulch slurry application for both dust control and storm water control. • Increasing measures to stabilize soil, including a non-toxic odor suppressant material that binds to loose soils and forms a shell resistant to wind and erosion. • A nationwide benchmarking and subsequent evaluation and engineering, of feasible tenting and enclosure designs to utilize as containment systems for the enhanced protectiveness of future excavation work.

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GROUNDWATER

QUESTION	ANSWER
What are you monitoring for in groundwater?	Groundwater monitoring tests for impacts typically found at the Site, including VOCs, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals. The results of monitoring are posted by DTSC on EnviroStor.com.
Could fruits and vegetables grown in my backyard be impacted by groundwater at the Ascon Site?	No. Groundwater testing at the Ascon Site as far back as 1982 has shown impacts to groundwater are limited and are contained within, and not leaving, the Site boundaries.
Does the Ascon Site impact my drinking water?	No, the Ascon Site has no impact on drinking water. All impacts to groundwater are contained within the Site. Additionally, due to seawater intrusion, there are no drinking water production wells within three miles of the Site. Any drinking water wells are under the jurisdiction of the Orange County Health Officer.



STORMWATER

QUESTION	ANSWER
What are you monitoring for in stormwater?	Stormwater runoff is presently monitored for pH, turbidity, VOCs, SVOCs, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, metals, hydrocarbons, ammonia and biological oxygen demand (organic pollutants).
Is Ascon stormwater runoff causing flooding on Magnolia Street?	No, Magnolia Street ponding is primarily caused by runoff from Magnolia Street and surrounding areas, not by Ascon.
Who reviews the Ascon Site stormwater monitoring and management work?	A City of Huntington Beach stormwater inspector physically inspects the Site and reviews the stormwater mitigation plans each month during the rainy season, from October to April. At their discretion, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board may also inspect the Site and review Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) documentation for compliance with the permit.



GENERAL

QUESTION	ANSWER
Will the Ascon Site be developed?	There are no development plans for the Site. If a proposed use or development in some form is considered in future years, this will require review by the City of Huntington Beach and other agencies, with public input and DTSC involvement.
What material from the Ascon Site is being removed during remediation activities and what will remain?	Approximately 160,000 tons of material has been removed from the Ascon Site, to date, and disposed at a permitted State landfill. Another 5,000 tons are planned for removal during this final cleanup. Ascon materials to remain onsite will be placed underneath an engineered environmental cap which is designed to be protective of the public and environment. All waste materials are either removed or placed under an engineered environmental cap. This approach was approved by DTSC, the lead regulator for the cleanup.
How can the community learn more about what is going on at the Ascon Site?	Visit asconhb.com to sign up to receive weekly Site Updates, read past updates and FAQs.